

House Resolution 1365

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Bryant of the 160th, Purcell of the 159th, Gordon of the 162nd, and Stephens of the 161st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Chatham County Commission, the Savannah Economic
2 Development Authority, and Imperial Sugar for their partnership and cooperative efforts in
3 incentivizing and expediting the rebuilding of one of the State of Georgia's oldest employers;
4 and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, for more than 98 years, Imperial Sugar has been located within the borders of
6 Chatham County, Georgia, and in those years, Imperial Sugar has employed as many as 500
7 people; and

8 WHEREAS, for more than 98 years, Imperial Sugar has continuously increased its share of
9 the sugar market and, by doing so, has made a positive impact on the Savannah port business
10 with the import of raw sugar and creation of numerous related jobs; and

11 WHEREAS, while located in Savannah, Imperial has maintained a facility and property with
12 values in excess of \$34 million and paid ad valorem taxes in excess of \$800,000 annually;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, on February 7, 2008, Imperial Sugar and the Chatham County area suffered a
15 tremendous loss of life and property in an explosion and fire at the same facility, the results
16 of which will never be forgotten by the close Imperial Sugar and Chatham County families;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Chatham County Commission, the Savannah Economic Development
19 Authority, and Imperial Sugar were committed that the losses suffered by this community
20 would not prevent the rebuilding of a bigger and better operation, and collectively, they
21 began a negotiation to return as many displaced workers to their jobs and create new jobs as
22 soon as possible; and

23 WHEREAS, through the incentives of the Chatham County Commission, the foresight of the

24 Savannah Economic Development Authority, and the tremendous commitment of Imperial
25 Sugar, construction on the new Imperial Sugar facility began less than six months after the
26 accident; and

27 WHEREAS, the partners in this endeavor placed the well-being of the community and the
28 future of their workforce ahead of the bureaucracies and potential delays, so that today, there
29 stands a sugar operation that employs more than 400 people in a facility that is valued in
30 excess of \$200 million.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body commend the Chatham County Commission and the Savannah
33 Economic Development Authority for their foresight in incentivizing, through property tax
34 abatement and general support, Imperial Sugar's recovery and recognize this important
35 corporate citizen's addition to the workforce and property digest of Chatham County.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Chatham County
38 Commission, the Savannah Economic Development Authority, and Imperial Sugar.